MINUTES OF MEETING State Board of Education March 17-18, 2005

The March meeting of the Board of Education was held in the State Board Conference Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. The following Board members were present: Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, Charles Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Rosie Hussey (telephonically), Wayne Kobberdahl, Greg McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery and Megan Srinivas. Also present were Director Judy Jeffrey and Department staff members, Gail Sullivan, Lee Tack, Carol Greta, Kathi Slaughter, Jeff Berger, Jan Friedel, Jim Reese, Beverly Bunker, Chris Evans, Pam Pfitzenmaier, Bill Silag, Judith Spitzli, Cynthia Knight, John Hartwig, Marlene Dorenkamp and Beverlee Adams. Also present were Robert Vittengl, AEA 1; Greg Nichols, Maryellen Becker, and Diana Gonzalez, Board of Regents; Lola Lopes, University of Iowa; Philip Patton, University of Northern Iowa; Kathy Jones and Lee Furbeck, Iowa State University; Faye Johnson, Des Moines Area Community College; and Madelaine Jerousek, *The Des Moines* Register.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

The State Board met jointly with representatives of the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees on the topic of On-line Consortium. The Iowa Community College On-Line Consortium (ICCOC) was formed in 2002. The North Central Association granted approval for consortium members to provide all coursework for an associate degree on-line. Articulation agreements have been finalized with several four-year colleges that allow community college students who have completed programs delivered through the ICCOC to earn their bachelor degree on-line.

A panel presentation was given by Steve Rheinschmidt, Iowa Community College On-Line Consortium (ICCOC), Coordinator of Distance Learning Services, Southeastern Community College; Gretchen Bartelson, Lead Faculty Trainer, ICCOC, Director, Distance Education and Instructional Technology, Northwest Iowa Community College; Terry Gaalswyk, On-Line Instructor, ICCOC, Math Instructor,

Western Iowa Tech Community College; Theresa Ziegler, Web Administrator, ICCOC, Director, Distance Education and Global Education, Iowa Lakes Community College and Jan Friedel, Moderator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation. The panel provided an overview of the On-Line Consortium, how it worked, and how it would benefit students to obtain their bachelor degree on-line.

President Gene Vincent called the business meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery to approve the agenda as written.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The minutes of the January 20, 2005 State Board of Education meeting were approved.

Rules

Chapter 1, "Organization and Operation" rules were approved for Notice of Intended Action as presented.

Chapter 11, "Unsafe School Choice Option" rules were approved for Notice of Intended Action as presented.

Request for Accredited Nonpublic School to Add a Grade

St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School was approved for accreditation of grades K-6.

Appeal Decision

Carol Greta, the Department's administrative law judge, presented an overview of the proposed appeal decision In re Board Policy. Duane and Mary Dornath, Appellants, v. Fort Dodge Community School District, 23 D.o.E. App. Dec. 90. Greta indicated that the Appellants seek reversal of a decision of the local Board of Directors of the District made on November 22, 2004, to approve the District's existing guest policy for high school dances. Greta said the policy requires guests to

be current students in good standing at any high school or students who graduated within the past two years from Fort Dodge High School. Ms. Greta recommended approval of the proposed decision as written.

Motion: It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Sally Frudden to approve the proposed decision <u>In re Board Policy</u> as written.

Vote: The motion carried with one dissenting vote of Greg McClain.

AEA Budget Approval for FY 2005-2006

Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services gave a presentation about the FY05-06 AEA annual budgets. He indicated the Board may only approve budgets submitted by AEAs accredited by the Board or that had been given conditional accreditation by the Board. All AEAs were accredited for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Dr. Tack recognized Marlene Dorenkamp, Consultant, Division of Financial and Information Services for her role in the budget approval process. Tack introduced Robert Vittengl, Administrator, AEA 1.

Administrator Vittengl gave a power point presentation reviewing the services provided to students, educators, families and schools by Area Education Agency 1. He also discussed the costs for these services.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Wayne Kobberdahl to approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2005-2006.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Districts Having Negative Unspent Balances for FY03-04

Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services reported that the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) was required to report to the State Board the names of districts with Negative Unspent Balances for the previous fiscal year and the amounts by which these districts exceeded their budget authority. He indicated the districts are required to prepare corrective action plans and present them to the SBRC. The SBRC also reports this information to each board member of the districts. He reported that four schools had exceeded their authorized budgets for the 2003-04 school year.

Transition of Community College Students to Regents Institutions

Judy Jeffrey, Director gave a brief overview of this agenda item and introduced Maryellen Becker of the Board of Regents for brief comments about the coordination of transition efforts between community college students and regents institutions.

Janice Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation stated that Iowa had had a long history of voluntary articulation efforts between public institutions of higher education. Soon after the creation of Iowa's community colleges in the early 1960's discussion of transfer issues began with the Regents universities. She felt that one of the most successful committees to emerge out of these early meetings was LACTS, the Liaison Advisory Committee on Transfer Students. The LACTS Committee exists to help make the student transition among Iowa public institutions of higher education as smooth and seamless as possible.

The following presenters provided information about the success of community college students that transfer to the three Regents universities and the three principal committees established for resolution of transfer issues:

Diana Gonzalez, Ph.D. Assistant Director of Academic Affairs Iowa State Board of Regents

Lee Furbeck, Ph.D., Associate Director of Admissions lowa State University

Faye Johnson, Director, Student Development Des Moines Area Community College

Kathy Jones, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and University Registrar Iowa State University

Lola Lopes, Ph.D., Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education University of Iowa

Philip Patton, University Registrar University of Northern Iowa

These presenters also highlighted a few of the specific activities implemented at each of the institutions to ease the transition of community college students to the university.

State Board of Education members felt that the assistance given to students for a smooth transition was extremely valuable in making a successful change to the university setting and were appreciative of the information provided.

Update on Statewide Efforts to Improve Mathematics Achievement, K-12

Director Judy Jeffrey introduced the following staff members presenting this agenda item: Jim Reese, Chief, Judith Spitzli, Consultant and Cynthia Knight, Consultant, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education; Bureau of Instructional Services.

Mr. Reese noted this update would provide information on statewide efforts to improve mathematics achievement, K-12. He indicated that initial efforts had been expanded from a single focus on middle schools to include strategies for elementary and high schools. In developing statewide capacity in mathematics, K-12 school districts would have access to quality professional development and technical assistance in mathematics to help them meet their student achievement goals. In improving achievement of K-12 students in mathematics it was important to build a learning community engaged in the study of mathematics, mathematics instruction and student achievement in mathematics through effective implementation of lowa's Professional Development Model.

Cynthia Knight reviewed the four primary sources of data used: 1) TIMMS, 2) NAEP, 3) ITBS/ITED, and 4) State Survey for Math Initiative.

Judith Spitzli discussed the research guiding the work for improving student achievement in mathematics. She reviewed information in the following areas:

- Teaching Mathematics for Understanding
- Teaching Mathematics Using Problem-Based Instructional Tasks
- Meaningful Distributed Practice of Concepts, Skills, and Problem Solving

Spitzli indicated that Every Student Counts incorporates the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics content and process standards. She stated that Every Student Counts emphasizes teaching for understanding, problem-based instructional tasks, and meaningful distributed practice. In conclusion, Spitzli reviewed ways in which Every Student Counts was supported.

lowa's Adult Literacy Program Benchmark Report for Program Year 2004

John Hartwig, Educational Program Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education reviewed the 2004 Adult Literacy Benchmark Report. He commented the goals of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) 1) assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency (Workplace Literacy); 2) assist adults who are parents obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children (Family Literacy); and 3) assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education.

Hartwig also indicated one of the major intents of AEFLA was to establish performance measures and benchmarks to demonstrate increased accountability. The 1998 reauthorization of AEFLA made accountability for results a central focus of the new law, setting out performance accountability requirements for states and local programs that measure program effectiveness on the basis of student academic achievement and competency based outcomes.

Dr. Hartwig outlined benchmark accomplishments achieved in the State of Iowa. He said the benchmark data could serve as the basis for local and state program improvement for program year 2005. He announced that Iowa adults that took the GED (General Educational Development) battery of tests during 2004 had a record high pass rate of 98 percent. The national average pass rate is about 70 percent. Hartwig said the benchmarks clearly demonstrate that Iowa's Adult Literacy Program makes a difference in the lives of those served.

Board members congratulated Dr. Hartwig on the many successes of his work with the program.

COMMUNICATION

Board Reports

<u>Sally Frudden</u> stated that while she was visiting in Florida the state legislature had passed a universal preschool bill. She also indicated that Charles City would be voting on an instructional levy in April. The declining enrollment in the Charles City area was the topic of many community discussions.

Wayne Kobberdahl reported he had attended a Community Conversation meeting in Whiting. He felt the process was positive in assisting districts to share ideas.

<u>Mary Jean Montgomery</u> indicated that declining enrollment was a statewide concern. She said the Spencer instructional levy had failed. Montgomery felt that the importance of economic development and the vitality of communities was a key factor in growing communities and schools.

Montgomery stated she had attended the IPTV meeting. Topics discussed were datacasting, budget dollars to complete conversion to meet federal guidelines and a controversial show that had been aired. She also asked the Board to read the response from Dan Miller, Administrator for IPTV, regarding importance of maintaining public television.

Mary Jean Montgomery said she had been a speaker at the SAI Women's Annual Meeting. She was impressed with the turnout and encouraged with the number of young women interested in school administration.

Mary Jean Montgomery reported that she, Megan Srinivas, and Gene Vincent had selected three student member applications to be sent to the Governor for final selection of the new student State Board member. A time would be chosen to recognize Megan Srinivas for her contributions and time served on the Board.

On March 7 Montgomery indicated she had attended a Community Conversation meeting at Sioux Center. She felt it was a good conversation and positive exchange of information.

Ms. Montgomery said she had not been able to attend the SAELP (State Action for Education Leadership Project) meeting, but planned to be in attendance for the April meeting.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick stated she had attended several lowa Braille and Sight Saving Task Force meetings. The preliminary recommendations would be released on March 29, 2005 for public comment. Fitzpatrick said there was one recommendation that may potentially affect the State Board with some type of agreement to place all of the service providers for the visually impaired under one agency for better coordination of the services. Another part of the discussion was taking advantage of the program offered at University of Northern Iowa and for a multi-disabled student using the program at the University of Iowa. This would allow for more partnering with Regents institutions. Fitzpatrick also indicated

there was a discussion about changing the calendar to better take advantage of resources in public schools. She said that an interim director for the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School would be appointed as a result of the director's retirement.

Sister Fitzpatrick indicated she had also spent a day with the Chancellor of Eastern Iowa Community College and saw some of their programs.

Fitzpatrick attended the Career and Technical Recognition Awards Ceremony. She related it was a wonderful experience of personal stories in what a difference these programs make in people's lives beyond employment.

Rosie Hussey had attended two superintendent's meetings--one at NIACC and one at the AEA. She felt this time was valuable in visiting with superintendents and building a relationship with them and listening to their issues.

Hussey had attended the Council on Post High School Coordinating Council meeting. There was a report from the bylaw committee and recommendation regarding a change in Council reducing the membership number to half. She had contacted Bob Paxton, Administrator, Iowa Central Community College and invited to him to attend a Community College Council meeting to explain the rationale for lowering the number of members. She recommended the State Board discuss this topic at the April meeting for feedback to the Coordinating Council.

Ms. Hussey reported that a Colorado consulting firm had given an unbiased report on the profile of lowa and where we are today in the need for change and public policy. She reported that the report can be found on the Department of Education website – community college section. The Coordinating Council discussed taking it forward to get information out in the state and take it to lowans for a Better Future for a program or conference and she felt that the Department of Education should be a partner in this proposed conference.

Charlie Edwards – No report

Megan Srinivas reported she had been a speaker at the Hoover Wallace Dinner that had been held to raise money for the World Food Prize, the Youth Institute as well as the Internship Program. The result was very encouraging raising \$28,000. Also honored were former Governor Robert D. Ray and Walter Mondel (sp). She indicated former Director Stilwill was also in attendance.

Srinivas felt there were great finalists for the new student board member. She indicated this would be her last meeting and she appreciated the opportunity for being able to serve in this capacity and thanked Board members and staff for their assistance.

Greg McClain stated he had attended the I-JAG meeting induction ceremony in Waterloo. He stated he would like to invite Laurie Phelan to present to this Board on the I-JAG program. McClain had attended the Waterloo School District Athletic Eligibility Subcommittee meeting and proposed changes were being discussed for the school district.

McClain discussed information he had reviewed on math graduation requirements for teacher preparation programs in elementary and secondary education curriculum.

Gene Vincent thanked Megan Srinivas and Mary Jean Montgomery for their work on the student selection committee in choosing three applications to be submitted to the Governor's Office for the new student State Board member. Vincent thanked Megan for the pride she had brought to the Board and the standard she had set for future student board members. On behalf of the Board he wished Megan a successful future.

Mr. Vincent stated he had accompanied Director Jeffrey on two days of school district visits. He felt these meetings were rewarding and positive and the school districts were appreciative of staff coming to their site. He complimented Judy Jeffrey on her fastidious approach to the school visits. He encouraged Board member involvement in the school district meetings and community conversations.

Vincent reported he had also attended a Regents State Board committee meeting in Ames on State Board policies and objectives and had provided information on the Iowa Learns Council. Director Jeffrey had also been in attendance.

Director Report

Director Judy Jeffrey reported on the following items:

Attended Board of Regents' Education and Student Affairs
 Committee. Topics were transition of students and what is
 expected of knowledge and skill and looking at courses students
 take instead of admitting them on a GPA. The Regents indicated
 they were also reviewing a K-16 data system-more robust than
 the current system.

- Winter Institutes with SAI and Iowa Association of Curriculum
 Development had been held. There were four institutes with 680
 persons in attendance. This year there would be more follow-up
 with attendees. The topic for the institutes was continuation of
 quality professional development knowledge and skills about
 how you implement quality professional development and
 demonstrating actual scenarios of how you link a teacher's
 individual career development with the district's career
 development plan.
- Congratulations to Sally Frudden who will be recognized at the Above and Beyond Recognition Event by Governor Tom Vilsack for her outstanding contribution to the well-being of lowa children primarily for the early childhood advocacy at both the local and state levels.
- Iowa Community College Accreditation Process is being revisited.
 All 15 community colleges will be represented as well as staff.
 Jim Billings will represent the State Board.
- Representatives from four to six community colleges will be attending a diversity seminar in the work with the Community College Strategic Plan Goal #5.
- lowa received a grant to look at disproportionate minorities in special education. Also will be looking at graduation rate of students with disabilities.
- Website launched on March 29 called School Matters.com—free online service that provides data analysis of schools and their performance.
- National Governor's Conference Major topic of School Reform
- Review of high school visits regarding relevance and rigor have been extremely rewarding and the discussions very positive. She reinforced that these conversations were "listening" conversations.
- Community conversations had introduced many diverse ways to look at high schools.

The Board Development work session was removed from the March agenda because of time constraints. It was agreed to reschedule this item for a future date.

Legislative Update

Jeff Berger, Legislative Liaison, presented an overview of the legislative activities affecting education.

Judy Jeffrey, Director, handed out the proposed topics for the April 14-15, 2005 State Board meeting.

President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting.

Gene E. Vincent

President

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director
and Executive Officer